

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests that the above amendments and new claims be entered before the first Official Office Action. The claim amendments and new claims 18-28 are fully supported by numerous examples found in the specification (*see e.g.*, Figures 1, 3 and the related discussion). Generally, the claim amendments and new claims manifest Applicant's "long-accepted right to press alternative claims covering different aspects of ... [Applicant's disclosed] invention." *Amgen, Inc. v. Hoechst Marion Roussel*, 126 F. Supp.2d 69 (D. Mass. 2001). As no claims have been rejected, Applicant submits that these amendments are not necessary for patentability in view of any prior art as cited in claim rejections.

The following discussion applies to U.S. Patent No. 4,288,255 to Burger ("the Burger reference"), which was cited during the international stage of PCT Patent Application (PCT/USO3/34886) of which the present application is a National filing. Specifically, the International Search Report cited the following portions of the Burger reference: Figures 1 and 2; column 2:2-25; column 3:22-65; and column 4:7-40.

Applicant submits that these cited portions of the Burger reference fail to correspond to all of the original claimed limitations of the instant application, and further fail to correspond to the limitations of the amended and new claims listed above. For example, referring to independent claim 1, limitations are directed to the application of a sheet of water to a coating formulation on a vehicle to "create a coating solution" and to "disperse the coating formulation." With this approach, the sheet of water facilitates the formulation of a solution and dispersion of a previously-applied coating, with the solution formed (*e.g.*, mixed) on the vehicle being washed.

The Burger reference fails to teach such mixing or dispersion, and further appears to teach away from the same. For instance, the cited portions of the Burger reference are directed to the application of a first pre-rinse including a surface-tension-increasing agent (*see, e.g.*, column 1:63-67). After the pre-rinse is applied, a film or sheet of clean water is applied to the vehicle, with the pre-rinse used to cause the sheet to "flow gently over the vehicle as a film so that it runs off substantially" (*see, e.g.*, column 2:2-5). One approach involves the use of such a pre-rinse to render the surface of the vehicle "slightly hydrophobic or water-shedding" (*see, e.g.*, column 2:8-12). In this regard, the Burger

reference's application of an initial coating and subsequent sheet of clean water are directed to a first pre-rinse that facilitates run off of the subsequent sheet of clean water.

In view of the above, the Burger reference fails to teach or suggest limitations in claim 1 directed to applying a coating formulation to a vehicle and, subsequently, applying a sheet to form a solution (*e.g.*, mix) with the coating formulation to disperse the coating formulation on the vehicle. Applicant has reviewed the Burger reference and cannot ascertain any recitation of mixing the pre-rinse with the subsequently-applied sheet of water, or of the formation of a solution with the pre-rinse and sheet of rinse water or otherwise. Generally, the pre-rinse is referred to as a solution having been pre-mixed, prior to application to the vehicle, and applied or dispersed across the surface of the vehicle, prior to the application of a sheet of water, in order to facilitate flow of the subsequently-applied sheet of water. Furthermore, it appears that the Burger reference's pre-rinse application serves to render the surface of the vehicle being rinsed hydrophobic to cause the sheet of clean water to flow as a film, therefore teaching away from any mixing or formation of a solution with the sheet of clean water.

In addition to the above, the Burger reference applies its sheet of water to a vehicle using a curtain including filaments "to ensure that the liquid flowing gently from the outlets 15 runs down as a continuous film or sheet and is thus applied to the car" (*see* column 3:62-64). The Burger reference relies upon this curtain to facilitate a gentle flow, with the filaments "extend downwardly to form a curtain whose lower edge lies well below the upper surfaces 16 of the car" (*see* column 3:59-61). The Burger reference discloses no other way in which to flow its sheet of water onto a vehicle. In this regard, the Burger reference does not teach or suggest claimed limitations directed to the application of a sheet of water by dumping the sheet water from a position above the vehicle as claimed, for example, in independent claims 11 and 16. Further, as the curtain is intended to facilitate the gentle flow of the sheet of water (*e.g.*, so as not to form bubbles as indicated at column 4:46-49), the Burger reference teaches away from any dumping of water as claimed.

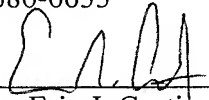
In view of the above, the Burger reference fails to disclose limitations in the independent claims 1, 11 and 16, and correspondingly fails to disclose limitations as relevant to claims 2-10, 12-15 and 17-24 that depend therefrom. Furthermore, Applicant

submits that the Burger reference fails to disclose limitations in new independent claim 25 and claims 26-28 that depend therefrom for similar reasons.

In view of the above discussion, Applicant believes that the claims are allowable over the Burger reference. A favorable response is requested. Should there be any remaining issues that could be readily addressed over the telephone, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at (651) 686-6633.

Respectfully submitted,
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